

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3164

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 12974

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF

SUBJ: FRG AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST AT MFA

1. SUMMARY: IN MEETING OCTOBER 16 FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM  
WAS TOLD BY CHIEF OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION  
ISRAELYAN THAT A SOLUTION OF THE PRESENT CONFLICT IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST WAS ONLY POSSIBLE IF THE ARAB STATES REGAINED FULL  
SOVEREIGNTY OVER ALL TERRITORIES LOST IN 1967. ISRAELYAN  
CONJECTURED THAT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WOULD NOT CHANGE  
THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF DETENTE WHICH IS NOW UNDERWAY.  
END SUMMARY

2. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR SAHM'S GENERAL QUERIES  
ISRAELYAN SAID THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE NOW UNDERWAY TO FIND A  
SOLUTION WHICH WAS ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE  
MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. ISRAELYAN SAID A SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT  
WAS IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT A SOLUTION OF THE MAIN QUESTION. THIS  
REFERRED TO THE REGAINING OF FULL SOVEREIGNTY BY THE ARAB  
STATES OVER ALL TERRITORIES LOST IN THE 1967 SIX-DAY WAR. THIS  
IS, OF COURSE, A RADICAL SOLUTION AND THE US WOULD AGREE  
TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY ONLY WITH DIFFICULTY. NEVERTHELESS, THE  
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SOVIET POSITION IS BACKED BY AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE  
SECURITY COUNCIL. ALL OTHER SOLUTIONS WOULD BE A MERE PALLIATIVE.

3. AMBASSADOR SAHM STRESSED THAT THE FRG POSITION IS THAT THE FIGHTING MUST STOP AND THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND ON THE BASIS OF RESOLUTION 242. ISRAELYAN REPLIED THAT THE SOVIET UNION ALSO REGRETTED THE BLOODSHED AND SUPPORTED THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES. BUT A MERE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES WOULD NOT REMOVE THE BASIC TERRITORIAL QUESTION. THE ARAB SIDE HAS BEEN UNABLE TO ACHIEVE A SOLUTION THROUGH POLITICAL MEANS AND HARBORS A GREAT DISTRUST OF THE UN AT THE PRESENT TIME. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT WAS INTERESTING, ISRAELYAN SAID, THAT NO SIDE HAD APPEALED FOR A CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AT THE UN UP TO NOW, PRESUMABLY FEELING THAT THIS PROVIDED NO SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

4. WHEN AMBASSADOR SAHM SUGGESTED THAT THE CONFLICT COULD SET BACK THE PROCESS OF DETENTE, ISRAELYAN EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE BUT THE SOVIET SIDE FELT THAT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WOULD NOT CHANGE THE GENERAL DIRECTION OF THE PROCESS NOW UNDERWAY. AT THE SAME TIME, HE REGRETTED EVEN TO EXPRESS THE THOUGHT THAT THE EXACERBATION OF THE CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST MIGHT PROVE TO BE AN OBSTACLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SECURITY IN EUROPE. NEVERTHELESS, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS CONVICTED THAT THE POLICY OF DETENTE HAS BEEN FIXED AND THAT IT WAS DESIRABLE TO CONTINUE THIS TREND. FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION SHOULD BE PART AND PARCEL OF THIS PROCESS. ISRAELYAN ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS NOW FAVORABLE FOR POSITIVE SOLUTION OF THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT AND THAT THE SITUATION WOULD NOT DEVELOP INTO A BROAD CONFRONTATION. EVERYONE, HE ADDED, SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN PREVENTING THE CONFLICT FROM SPREADING TO A WORLD-WIDE WAR WHICH COULD INVOLVE USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPON. TIMERBAYEV, ISRAELYAN'S DEPUTY, ADDED AT THIS POINT THAT THE CONFLICT MIGHT ALREADY HAVE SPREAD BEYOND ITS PRESENT PROPORTIONS IF THE PROCESS OF DETENTE HAD NOT ALREADY BEGUN.

5. AMBASSADOR SAHM CONCLUDED THAT THE SOVIETS WERE INTERESTED IN LOCALIZING THE CONFLICT AND THAT THEY DID NOT WISH THE PRESENT DETENTE TREND TO BE ENDANGERED.

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